

--38. (NEW) A method according to claim 36, wherein the substance affecting VDRR signal transduction is a chemical molecule of natural or synthetic origin with a molecular weight in the range of from about 100 up to about 500 Da.--

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--39. (NEW) The method according to claim 37, wherein the substance has a molecular weight of about 300 Da.--

--40. (NEW) The method according to claim 38, wherein the substance has a molecular weight of about 300 Da.--

--41. (NEW) The method according to claim 31, wherein the substance has a molecular weight of about 300 Da.--

REMARKS

The claims are amended herein in order to omit the multiple dependency of the claims and to present the claims in accordance with customary U.S. patent practice. Support for claims 32 and 33 may be found in original claims 1 and 3, respectively. Support for claim 34 may be found in original claim 18. Support for claims 35 and 36 may be found in original claims 26 and 27 while support for claims 37 and 38 may be found in original claim 28. Finally, support for claims 39-41 may be found in original claims 28 and 31. Since these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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